



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>



***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner Melody A. Currey
Veterans' Affairs Committee
February 25, 2014***

S.B. No. 212 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TASK FORCE.

H.B. No. 5299 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE FINDINGS OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TASK FORCE.

Good afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy, Senator Welch, Representative Yaccarino and other members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 212 AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TASK FORCE and HB 5299 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FINDINGS OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TASK FORCE.

The Department of Motor Vehicles currently offers veterans and members of the military various benefits such as exemptions from certain fees, including free driver license renewals for active military persons and other benefits to both veterans and active military personnel as well.

Sections two (2) and three (3) of both bills would mandate the Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner to waive all parts of the examination for a driver license applicant who is honorably discharged from the armed forces within the past two years and who also held a military operator's license for vehicles of the same class for which the person is applying. Please note that DMV cannot waive the written test for a CDL license because federal law does not allow a waiver of the knowledge test under any circumstances.

DMV currently offers the CDL skills test exemption to military personnel through a program called "Helmets to Hardhats" and has done so since 2008. The program is designed to assist veterans in obtaining a commercial driver's license more easily and hopefully enables them to find employment as a commercial motor vehicle driver. Helmets to Hardhats allows for an exemption from the CDL driving skills test for those on active duty, recently separated (within 90 days of application) and reservist military personnel based upon their holding a military license that authorizes the operation of military vehicles that are representative of a commercial motor vehicle of a similar class.

On a more general note, the DMV Commissioner should always retain the discretion to waive part or all of such an examination and this proposal would remove that discretion. As a result, DMV would respectfully oppose mandating such an examination waiver.

Thank you again for allowing me to submit testimony regarding this proposed legislation.